


circa 1940-1950

Box 25 V3C  
Folder



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2019 with funding from  
Boston Public Library

<https://archive.org/details/kincaidstratigra00unse>



# The Stratigraphy at Kincaid

Slide showing Illinois & Western Kentucky & Rivers

The Kincaid site is situated in southern Illinois about 1 mile north of <sup>the</sup> Ohio River and between the junction of the Tennessee & Cumberland Rivers. This prehistoric village is shown on a <sup>topographic</sup> slide of topographic River survey map showing bottom lands along a small lake and is the southern portion of the extensive bottom lands.

Chas. of C. ~~Frank~~ started excavating in this area in 1934 and the site was used as a training center until 1941 when W. P. A. and Ch. of C. <sup>committee</sup> supervisors attempted to complete excavations. The work <sup>ended</sup> such endeavors <sup>in March</sup> early of 1942 and in 1944 a small group returned to the site to complete a few details. During all these years laboratory analysis had been carried on <sup>at</sup> the Univ. of Chicago. ~~During~~ <sup>since</sup> ~~these years~~ practically all the mounds and much of the village was tested and we now believe, though the excavations were not totaling any one site, that our

slide of Kincaid site and excavations (may use a map) sampling is inadequate for giving a full report on the site.

In this speech I shall attempt to indicate the stratigraphy found at the site, Dr. Orr will







continue with a paper on the ceramic sequence, Mr. Bell <sup>will</sup> ~~shall~~ indicate the dating of the levels and Ceramic periods and finally Dr. Cole will coordinate the previous data and indicate the place of the Kincaid site in the prehistory of the Eastern U.S.

Since more than 15 sites were dug at Kincaid I shall not attempt to explain the stratigraphy of each, but rather indicate the stratigraphy of 4 sites at Kincaid that appear to be representative (and, also, show the greatest number of levels). These four sites are each Southern different; Mx<sup>0</sup>7 is a ceremonial mound, Mx<sup>0</sup>10 is a ~~playa~~ ~~village~~ Mx<sup>0</sup>4 is a small mound that is mainly ~~village~~ composed of village refuse with some later ~~ceremonial~~ <sup>pyramidal</sup> truncated levels on top, Mx<sup>0</sup>10 is a ~~playa~~ ~~village~~ area, and lastly Pp<sup>0</sup>2 <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ ceremonial mounds situated over a village area.

Mx<sup>0</sup>7, a small round conical mound, was dug by first placing a North-South trench <sup>through the center</sup> from its surface to the base soil 30 feet below and a cross trench from top, almost down to the base soil. From this cross-trench

#### Slide of N.S. - profile of Mx<sup>0</sup>7

we were able to determine the stratigraphy of the mound and then widened out the cross-trench to excavate other areas of the mound that showed the greatest amount of features at the various levels. In the top levels, mainly the Humms and upper portion of Zone A were a number of extended burials with & without stone slabs and having some artifacts with them. These had

#### Slide of photographs of stone slabs, in album.

been somewhat disturbed by the water of pig, corrall on top of the mound during the 1937 flood. Below this ~~level~~ at the base of Zone A were found the remains of large house with a number of roof supports. ~~Below~~ Below this slide of drawing of the house







that from the clearance of remains it is possible (5)  
to reconstruct the construction of the house as  
well as date the floor level. Another point  
at this level found some 80 feet away  
incidentally check as to date rather closely with  
those specimens taken from the house walls.  
Underneath this floor was a gravel layer of  
waterland deposit and then an old Hummer  
level. Dig down from the top of this old  
Hummer level were numerous house features.

### Slide of Floor 7 - Zone 6

This represented the earliest occupation  
of this site. Note the architectural difference  
from the floor above. Here our house was  
small, ~~small~~<sup>narrow</sup>-walled house, of double or single walls  
with out fire pits in the center.

### B Slide of House from Photo album of old house

Between these two sites or mounds is  
the vast plaza area. This area was tested  
by a squares dug 25 feet apart to form 5 meter by  
5 meter grid. In the east section of them excavations

### Return slide showing 4x10 excavation.

some house features were found and excavated  
more completely. In the plaza area the top one foot  
appears to be village debris, but for the most part is  
without architectural features. Below this top 1 foot of  
refuse, the refuse passes into yellowish silty clay  
and at a level at about 3 feet are again found  
sand and gravel. As in ~~the~~ the other excavations this  
waterland deposit overlies a dark strata called  
Slide of telescoped features probably of 4x10







old humus. Dug down from the top of this dark layer are numerous house features etc. To the east of the plaza were part of 2 small, narrow walled houses with open corners were found on this level. These were covered by a small mound, evidently after the flood stage, which had a large, wide walled, closed corner house on its summit.

Now to turn to Pp02 some distance from the central area of the village we have a rather different situation. Excavation revealed that

again Slide of Map of Kincaid

this mound unlike the other was a burial mound. The concise analysis of this mound by J. Caldwell has revealed the ~~sequence of~~ stratigraphy and sequence of burials type in this mound. The earliest

Slide of a cross-section of Pp02

cultural material of this mound ~~are~~ were lower sherds in pits dug into basic soils. Above these features was ~~it~~ one foot and 1/2 of refuse. This refuse could be divided into 2 floor levels. The sherds in both levels were for the most part Lewis sherds with a few Mississippi sherds being found by the 3 inches of this strata. Throughout this level were Lewis pits and post holes. Above this level extended burial had been placed in log lined pits and then covered with small mounds of refuse. Artifacts were seldomly associated with the burials. Over this mound more burials of the same type had been covered to form a second mound.

Slide of a bank burial to be found in 1936 report.

The final mound was placed over this mound. In this mound were found extended burials in stone cists and usually having grave goods. The final



old house. I am glad to hear the top of the  
stone steps are removed in their places and all  
to the west of the steps are part of a wall  
which marked the house and the garden and fence  
in the front. This was removed by a wall built  
entirely after the fashion of the old house.  
The wall, which was removed, was a low wall

from the house to the garden and the wall  
the wall was of the same material as the  
difficult to locate. The wall was removed after

again that of the top of the wall  
the wall was the same as the wall of the house  
the house was built by T. C. C. C.

the house was built by T. C. C. C.  
the house was built by T. C. C. C.  
the house was built by T. C. C. C.

the house was built by T. C. C. C.  
the house was built by T. C. C. C.  
the house was built by T. C. C. C.

the house was built by T. C. C. C.  
the house was built by T. C. C. C.  
the house was built by T. C. C. C.

the house was built by T. C. C. C.  
the house was built by T. C. C. C.  
the house was built by T. C. C. C.

the house was built by T. C. C. C.  
the house was built by T. C. C. C.  
the house was built by T. C. C. C.

the house was built by T. C. C. C.  
the house was built by T. C. C. C.  
the house was built by T. C. C. C.



burials in this mound were extended burials with

slide of a burial in stone slab cist with pots, 1936 report  
artifacts which were placed in pit around the  
edges of the mound. ~~There we have a sequence~~

~~of burials~~

slide of correlation of strata at sites.

Now let us turn to a correlation

of the various strata at these 4 sites. As many  
of the stone slab burials are extended  
burials with artifacts found at Pp. 2 correlates  
rather closely with burials on top of Hx. 7.  
<sup>largest</sup>

The earlier burials we ~~for the moment~~ might  
assume to correlate with the earlier levels of Hx. 7.

(The ceramic feature, ~~actually indicates~~ indicate  
them to be of the same period). The earlier  
level of Hx. 7, i.e. the sand covered mound, the  
ash mound and the village would appear to be  
below the flood levels. ~~The first period mound~~  
These would appear to correlate

with the features below the flood strata in the plaza area  
and Hx. 4. The large clod corner house on  
the first mound on top of Hx. 7, the village and  
mound structure at Hx. 4 above the flood gravels,  
and the first small mound on its structure at  
Hx. 10 above the flood levels, also, would appear  
to correlate temporally. (These correlations)  
are born out by the ceramic periods. For the  
moment assuming that the flood stage at all sites  
is contemporaneous as well as the stages with the  
same and plot the sequence of cultural features  
at Kincaid as indicated by the stratigraphy. I have  
indicated only 2 period stratigraphically, but as Dr. Orr  
shall point out there is a transition ceramic period  
involved, which includes the earlier levels of my 2nd period.







(It so happens that the earlier and later periods 8 also have some architectural features of each other earlier and later period). However, let us briefly summarize the traits of our two ~~era~~ stratigraphic

## Sketch of Chronology of Stratigraphy periods:

### Earlier Period

Burials - Extended without grave yards  
in long cuts

Mounds - Ground floor capped by sand  
layers of prepared floors

Houses - Small houses, with small walls,  
upheld corners and lacking for  
plaster

Village plan - Remained a village with houses  
around mounds and scattered  
mounds.

### Late period

Extended burials ~~without~~  
with grave yards with or  
without stone cuts

No sand prepared floors

Larger houses with  
one or more closed  
corners and having  
centrally located fire  
places.

Remained a communal  
center without corners  
~~undecorated~~ mounds, ~~play~~  
~~area~~ and a plaza. Hence  
all extent of plaza area







Pp 02	Mx 07	Mx 04.	Mx 01D	Period II
<p>4. Extended burials with artifact</p> <p>3. Burial alone and burial with artifacts</p>	<p>1. Burial with artifact with artifact with artifact</p> <p>2. Large closed corner houses with pillars supports or round</p>	<p>4. Large houses with closed corners or mounds</p> <p>3. Village having large houses, closed corners, and central fire pit.</p>	<p>3. Small mound with closed corner house on top but in most of place no houses.</p>	
<p><del>Flood level</del></p> <p>2. Burial in log cots.</p> <p>1. Burial in log cots</p>	<p>Flood level Old houses</p> <p>2. Small, open corner houses, inside pillars or mud covered mound.</p> <p>1. Small mound in village with houses small, narrow with open corners.</p>	<p>Flood level Old houses</p> <p>1. Village having small houses, narrow walls, open corners.</p>	<p>Flood level Old houses</p>	<p>Period I</p>
<p>2 Lewis floors</p> <p>Burial pits</p>	<p>Lewis floor</p> <p>Burial mounds</p>	<p>Burial mounds</p>		<p>Lewis floors</p> <p>Burial floors.</p>







Pp 02

Mx 01

Mx 04

Mx 01D

Percent II - 11m ca 10

4. E. ...  
with or ...

3. E. ...  
with or ...

4. E. ...  
with or ...

3. E. ...  
with or ...

4. Large houses  
with, ...  
on ...

3. Village having  
large houses,  
... and  
...

2. Small  
mound with  
... some  
... on top  
... in  
... of ...  
... the ...

~~E. ...~~

F. ...  
Red houses

F. ...  
Red houses

F. ...  
Red houses

Percent I - 11m ca 10 1450

2. ...  
...

1. ...  
...

1. ...  
...

1. ...  
...

1. ...  
...

1. ...  
...

...  
...

...  
...

...  
...

...  
...

...  
...

...  
...

Percent I - 11m ca 10 1250  
Percent I - 11m ca 10 1000  
Percent I - 11m ca 10 0







Kindred Steadfastness



